

**Recreation Commission Minutes**  
**April 15, 2015**

Chairman John Lembeck called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

**Attendance:**

Chairman John Lembeck – present; Commissioners: Mike Cecil, Kerry Chandler, Jim Dengler, Sharon Greener, and Robert McGinty were present. Dan Bavuso arrived at 7.25pm. Councilman Ben Day and Recreation Director Sarah Orsay were also present.

**Public comment portion:**

Shade Tree Chairman Stephen Barrett was present to update the Commissioners that ten shade trees would be planted in Victory Park in the next few weeks along the ridge between the RFH Rowing site driveway and Victory Park gazebo, donated by the Rumson Garden Club. In addition, the new Victory Park “Christmas Tree” will soon arrive. Mr. Barrett mentioned that the Rumson Boy Scouts had volunteered to do an Arbor Day project and the Shade Tree Commission had recommended planting shrubberies among the new trees, filling out the ridge line. He asked the Rec Commission if they would consider donating \$2500-\$3000 for this purpose. Mr. Lembeck said the Commission would discuss it and get back to him. Mr. Lembeck also asked about plans for Meadow Ridge Park. Mr. Barrett said that any new plantings there would be a fall project and reiterated that he would like to walk the park with any interested RC members and discuss ideas, as was discussed in January.

Mr. Barrett thanked the Commissioners for their time and consideration. In turn, the Commission thanked the Shade Tree Commission and Mr. Barrett for their significant effort in keeping our town green and beautiful.

**Chairman's Announcements**

None

**Approval of the Minutes**

None

**REPORTS**

**Parks**

Ms. Orsay reported that due to the cold, wet weather DPW was two weeks behind in their field prep calendar, but all the fields were currently playable. Unfortunately, due to the conditions there was no pre-season this year and all Rec activities started the week of April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Victory Park** – Ms. Orsay is planning to arrange a meeting with Playground equipment representatives for May. She discussed the project with a few vendors at the NJRPA Annual meeting in March who described salt-water resistant surfaces that were attractive and hardy. In addition, bids to repair the VP tennis courts are due this Friday. Any repair work will be undertaken in late May.

**Meadow Ridge Park** – Ms. Greener had mentioned that she felt Meadow Ridge was overcrowded in the peak after school hours, resulting in traffic congestion, etc. It was suggested to move the pre-school soccer tot class to a different park, if possible, and also see if Knollwood could practice elsewhere at least on some days. Ms. Orsay will follow up.

**Programs**

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Ms. Orsay updated the Commission on the Spring program registration numbers and calendar.

**RFH Girls Lax** - Ms. Chandler said Rec practices were underway and that the 5/6 and 7/8 grade tournament teams had been selected.

**Baseball/Softball/T-Ball** – Ms. Orsay highlighted that team sizes were intentionally smaller this year in an effort to engage more children and keep it more interesting for parent observers. She also mentioned that DPW was hoping to install a batting cage at Meadow Ridge adjacent to the restroom building.

**Travel Baseball** – Travel baseball is also underway. Ms. Orsay reported that the teams did their registrations entirely independently of the Borough and this worked well for all parties as it simplified the process. The coaches provided Ms. Orsay with a copy of each team's budget, income and rosters.

**Travel Soccer** – Mr. McGinty updated the Commission that season had started, each team had one designated practice and a possible second practice late on Saturday afternoons as field space is available. He also highlighted that resident and volunteer Chris Hawke is doing a fantastic job as Rumson Soccer Club MOSA representative and also taking on the role of Assistant RSC Coordinator, assisting Bob with field scheduling and other issues.

It was confirmed that the Head Coaches for the U9 boys' and girls' teams will be selected after tryouts from those parents whose children were selected for the team.

**Crew** – The spring competitive crew program is sponsored by Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School during the spring season, with financial support provided by a parent Booster organization. The Borough assists with maintenance and equipment issues. Ms. Orsay reported that the inclement weather had also impacted crew, resulting in a late start. Also, two boats were significantly damaged in a Regatta last week. The RFH Rowing Steering Committee (with Booster, Borough, RFHRS reps) is looking into how repairs will be paid.

**Summer** – Ms. Orsay distributed a list of the many summer programs approved or sponsored by the Borough, along with registration numbers to date. The March 10 Camp Night was well attended and sparked many early registrations. Finally, Ms. Orsay reported that Summer Playground Counselor selection, conducted by Director Zach Wilson, was in the final stages. The competition was significant this year with approximately 25 applicants and only 5 or 6 openings.

**Fall** – Fall Registration will commence May 1 and run through June 15<sup>th</sup>, after which a \$50 Late Fee on each individual registration will be implemented. Ms. Orsay indicated she hoped to have travel soccer and travel basketball tryout information up by May 1 as well, and would work with Mr. McGinty and Mr. Cecil on tryout dates.

### **Committees**

**Travel Sports** – The Commission moved to closed session from 7.42pm – 8.20pm to discuss and vote on re-confirmation of existing Travel Basketball and Travel Soccer Coaches. Mr. McGinty and Mr. Cecil will communicate the respective results to the coaches.

**Travel Soccer** - Mr. McGinty announced that MOSA has decided to change its policy effective Fall 2015 and have the U11 age group play on a small-sided field (8 players a side), rather than going to a regulation field (11 players a side).

Related to this, Ms. Orsay expressed continuing concern over limited field space, both in terms of traffic congestion in the parking lots and on the fields, but also lack of flexibility to reschedule games and practices because our fields are fully scheduled, in addition to wear and tear on fields from constant use. In anticipation of limited field space in the

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fall and next spring, Mr. McGinty indicated that we will look to rent field space from neighboring towns for second practices.

As an FYI, Ms. Orsay handed out rules governing Green Acres regulations, and reviewed the Borough's field allocation policies and procedures, which are in accordance with Green Acres.

**Special Events** – The privately-run **Rumson St. Patrick's Day Parade** took place March 7 and was a huge success.

The **Rumson Baseball Opening Day Parade** on April 11 was well attended and all enjoyed the beautiful spring-like weather. Rec Commissioners Jim Dengler (and wife Anne Dengler), Kerry Chandler, Dan Bavuso, and Bob McGinty were in attendance serving refreshments. Council members Ben Day, John Conklin, and Laura Atwell also joined in the festivities. Forrestdale 8<sup>th</sup> grader Kate Gagliardi did a great job singing the National Anthem and Rumson resident and former pro baseball player Darren Stumberger shared inspirational remarks. Mayor Ekdahl opened the season by throwing the first pitch to 8<sup>th</sup> grade Little League player Ryan Acacia. It was a fun event!

The **Rumson Memorial Day Parade** will take place on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am, with the ceremony at Victory Park immediately following.

Ms. Orsay updated the Commission that any tentative plans for **Rumson Day** have been pushed out to the fall to combine it with the privately sponsored **Rumson Boat Race** festivities on September 26th.

The **Summer Movies in the Park**, jointly hosted by Rumson and Fair Recreation Departments, will be held at Fair Haven Fields at dusk this summer. The schedule is:

Sunday, June 28 – **Blindside**  
Monday, July 6 – **How to Train Your Dragon**  
Monday, July 27 – **Big**  
Sunday, Aug 2 - **Frozen**

**Personnel** – There were no personnel issues discussed.

**Administrative**

Ms. Orsay reported that the new policy change of not accepting on-line unfunded Registrations (e.g., allowing on-line registration with the promise of delivering a cash or check) has been a huge improvement from an Administrative perspective. All registrations must now be accompanied by payment and those wishing to pay by check or cash simply put in a paper registration form along with their on-line account Family Member ID. There have been no issues or complaints.

Ms. Orsay attended the New Jersey Recs & Parks Association (NJRPA) Annual Conference in March and reported to the Commissioners on the seminars she attended. The seminars included Board development, Volunteers as Customers, Building Better Programs, Playful City designations, and Summer Camp activities to engage children, to list a few. Ms. Orsay also received a Clinician's Certification qualifying her to teach the Rutgers SAFETY Certification Course.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Orsay reviewed the Treasurer's Report, including revenue/expenses for winter and spring programs.

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Ms. Orsay reminded the Commission of significant potential projects on the horizon such as refurbishing Victory Park, playground equipment, contributing to the Piping Rock Memorial Turf Project, improving the surface of the Meadow Ridge path and refurbishing Victory Park tennis courts. The replacement of the Forrestdale gym floor has been tabled by the Superintendent's office for the time being. Mr. Lembeck also mentioned the Boat House, although there currently are no plans for a Boat House and all funds likely would be raised privately for this venture.

**Old Business**

**Field Fees** – This topic has been discussed on and off, including Working Group sessions, for almost two years. Ms. Orsay presented the culmination of this effort in the form of a Commission proposal to the Council of establishing field fees in accordance with Green Acres. The ultimate proposal was modeled after a neighboring community and Monmouth County Parks system. Ms. Greener made a motion that the proposal be approved, Mr. Cecil seconded, and the Commission unanimously approved the proposal.

**Code of Conduct / Mission Statement Revisions** – No update.

**Background Check Policy and Procedures** – Ms. Orsay reported that Chief of Police Paterson and Borough Administrator Rogers have approved an on-line background check procedure for those who have already completed the initial finger print check through Morpho Trak. This should make it easier on our volunteer coaches to be re-certified. Ms. Orsay plans on rolling this out for summer and fall programs.

**New business**

There were several requests from residents and businesses:

- 1) Several residents emailed a request for a summer basketball league for women. The Commission was in favor as long as we have adequate court space. Ms. Orsay will follow up.
- 2) Brave New World Surf Shop is seeking permission to give Stand Up Paddle demonstrations at Victory Park. The Commission rejected this as an ultimately commercial venture that likely would significantly increase non-resident traffic during the peak summer season.
- 3) Resident Kristin Gould was seeking permission to offer land yoga classes in Victory Park. The Commission rejected this request as commercial activity in Victory Park is limited to a very small number of unique camps, not on-going classes. In addition, there are numerous yoga studios in the area and the Commission does not want to undercut small, local businesses by offering a "free" venue to for-profit teachers.
- 4) Mr. Martin Kenney, a certified Chess teacher, would like to offer a Chess camp in August, similar to what he has offered in past summers. The Commission approved this request, as long as it did not compete with the current Chess Camp.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20 at 7 PM at the Charles S Callman courtroom.

The meeting adjourned at 9.15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Orsay